

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

L-03 DHA-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 /095 W

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P 181925Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4094

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24079

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, PORG

SUBJECT: UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" MEETING: DIS-  
CUSSION OF DRAFT DECLARATION OF MASS MEDIA  
PRINCIPLES

REF: STATE 188615

1. AT REQUEST OF US PERMDEL, UNESCO "INFORMATION GROUP" (IG) MET AUGUST 13 TO CONSIDER COMMON TACTIC OF POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION AT THE 19TH GENCONF OF UNESCO. IN ADDITION TO US, MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, IRELAND, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SPAIN (CHAIRMAN), SWITZERLAND, AND UK. NOTABLY ABSENT WERE FRANCE, TURKEY AND GREECE.

2. ACTING PERMREP WARVARIV PRESENTED USG VIEWS ON SUBJECT MATTER ALONG LINES OF REFTTEL, MAKING CLEAR THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION, AT THIS TIME, TO GO INTO SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF DRAFT DECLARATION, BUT RATHER TO FOCUS ON BEST TACTIC OF HOW TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION IN ORDER TO GAIN TIME NEEDED TO RESOLVE EXTREMELY WIDE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW RE PRESENT DRAFT, AND THAT THIS WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT 19TH GENCONF TO ACHIEVE. HE STRESSED US BELIEF THAT DG M'BOW WOULD PERSONALLY WELCOME POSTPONEMENT, AND MAY INFLUENCE THIS EFFORT, EVEN THOUGH ONE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THAT DG WILL UNDERTAKE HIMSELF TO INTERVENE OPENLY IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT.

3. ACTING PERMREP ALSO OUTLINED US ASSESSMENT ATTITUDE COUNTRIES WHICH EITHER ABSTAINED FROM OR DID NOT  
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PARTICIPATE IN FINAL VOTE AT DECEMBER MEETING ON SUBJECT DECLARATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT IN USG VIEW TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT TWO STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT DELAY: (A) INFORMING DG M'BOW ABOUT OUR JOINT SERIOUS CONCERNS RE SUBJECT MATTER, HOPING THAT HE MIGHT LEND HIS INFLUENCE TO POSTPONEMENT EFFORT, AND (B) ENLISTING SUPPORT FROM AS MANY MEMBER STATES AS POSSIBLE FOR THE EFFORT, INCLUDING INDUCING THEM TO WRITE TO THE

DIRECTOR-GENERAL STATING CASE FOR POSTPONEMENT. HE STATED THAT ON OUR PART, U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE DEMARCHES TO COUNTRIES LISTED IN PARA. 9 OF REFTTEL, AND HOPED THAT OTHER IG MEMBERS WOULD DO THE SAME IN COUNTRIES LISTED IN LAST SENTENCE OF REFPARA.

4. ENSUING DISCUSSION, IN WHICH CANADA, UK, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, NORWAY, FRG AND NETHERLANDS, IN ADDITION TO US PARTICIPATED, INDICATED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE PREFERRED TACTIC. THOSE PRESENT ALSO AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS THAT POSTPONEMENT SHOULD BE COMMON GOAL.

5. HOWEVER, SOME (NOTABLY BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND AND NORWAY) HAVE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS RE APPROACH TO DG M'BOW ON GROUNDS THAT THE LATTER MAY INTERPRET THIS

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L-03 DHA-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 IOE-00 /095 W

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P 181925Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4095

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24079

NESCO

AS "PRESSURE TACTIC" AND RESENT IT. THEY THOUGHT THAT THE "NEGOTIATING GROUP", TO BE SET UP AT THE OUTSET OF THE GENCONF, MIGHT BE THE FORUM TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT.

6. IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. IDEA TO APPROACH SELECTIVE COUNTRIES FROM THE THIRD WORLD, SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE THAT STRESSING THE NEGATIVE (POSTPONEMENT) MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. WE CAN RALLY THEIR SUPPORT MORE READILY IF THE WEST WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS, I.E. STRESSING ADVANTAGES TO THESE COUNTRIES IN ARRIVING AT BETTER AND MORE BALANCED THAN DECEMBER TEXT. WHILE DEFENDING OUR (AND UNESCO CONSTITUTION) BASIC PHILOSOPHY RE FREEDOME OF SPEECH, RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE, IMPORTANCE OF FREE FLOW, ETC., WE SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM OF MEDIA DIS-EQUILIBRIUM AND STRESS TO LDC'S THAT SOLUTION LIES NOT IN RESTRICTIVE DECLARATIONS BUT THROUGH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE LDC'S TO BUILD UP THEIR OWN COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES.

7. SOME (ESPECIALLY FRG AND SWITZERLAND) FELT THAT LDCS HAVE LEGITIMATE COMPLAINT IN THIS GENERAL AREA OF

COMMUNICATION. THEY CITED THAT ONLY 2,5 MILLION DOLLARS IS RESERVED IN PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1977-78 (19 C/5 DOCUMENT) FOR THIS IMPORTANT ACTIVITY AND SUGGESTED THAT, WITHOUT INCREASING UNESCO BUDGET, THE WEST SHOULD PUBLICLY DECLARE ITS READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE LDC'S IN SHARING ITS EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION IN THIS AREA.

8. FRG SUGGESTED THAT AN APPROPRIATE DRAFT RESOLUTION ALONG THESE LINES MIGHT BE IN ORDER AT 19TH GENCONF. FRG (PETERSEN) ALSO SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ELABORATE THE FRG ALTERNATIVE TEXT THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO IG (AVAILABLE IN DEPT.).

9. EVEN THOUGH THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO FOCUS THE MEETING ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION (I.E. POSTPONEMENT), NETHERLANDS FELT THAT IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DELETE THE ITEM FROM THE AGENDA AND REMINDED THOSE PRESENT TO BE PREPARED FOR A FULL-SCALE DEBATE AND HAVE READY A COUNTER-TEXT AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

10. IN CONCLUSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT U.S. (AHD CLEARLY PREFERRED BY OTHERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING) TACTIC WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO CAPITALS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL, I.E. CAREFUL APPROACHES TO DG M'BOW AND TO SELECTIVE LDC'S IN SUPPORT OF THE POSTPONEMENT STRATEGY, ALONG LINES IN PARA. 2 AND 3 ABOVE.

11. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE NEXT IG MEETING WILL BE CONVENED BY US PERMDEL (ROTATING CHAIRMAN) ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1976.

12. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE ABOVE DATE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
GAMMON

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